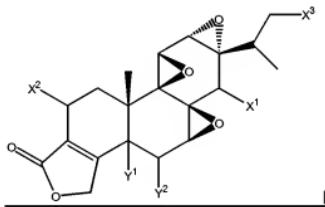


Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims, in which deleted text appears struck-through or [[double-bracketed]] and inserted text appears underlined>, will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled herewith).

15. (Currently amended) A compound as recited in claim 13, wherein having the structure I:



where

X¹ is OR¹, where R¹ is selected from hydrogen, C(=O)R², and C(=O)OR², where R² is selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, aralkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, aryloxyalkyl, and acyloxyalkyl;

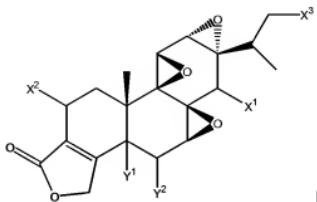
each of X² and X³ is hydrogen;

and where

Y¹ is hydrogen and Y² is cyano.

Claims 16-26 (Canceled herewith).

27. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a 5-hydroxy triptolide compound of formula I:



where

X^1 is OR¹, where R¹ is selected from hydrogen, C(=O)R², and C(=O)OR², where R² is selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, aralkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, and acyloxyalkyl;

X^2 and X^3 are independently OR¹ or hydrogen, at least one of X^2 and X^3 being hydrogen;

$\text{Y}^1 = \text{OH}$; and $\text{Y}^2 = \text{H}$;

by reaction of a starting triptolide compound of formula I in which X^1 , X^2 and X^3 are as defined above, $Y^1 = H$, and $Y^2 = H$, with selenium dioxide.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein R¹ is selected from hydrogen and C(=O)R², and R² is selected from lower alkyl, phenyl, and benzyl.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, where R¹ is hydrogen.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein each of X^2 and X^3 is hydrogen, and said 5-hydroxy triptolide compound is 5α -hydroxytriptolide.